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TO RUEHC/SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 4541
INFO RUEHZM/GULF COOPERATION COUNCIL COLLECTIVE PRIORITY
RUCNDT/USMISSION USUN NEW YORK PRIORITY 0049
RHMFISI/HQ USCENTCOM MACDILL AFB FL PRIORITY
RHBVAKS/COMUSNAVCENT PRIORITY

C O N F I D E N T I A L MANAMA 000693

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E.O. 12958: DECL: 04/22/2016

TAGS: [PREL](#) [PHUM](#) [KUNR](#) [UN](#) [BA](#) [ROW](#) [HUMRIT](#)

SUBJECT: BAHRAIN: ASIAN CANDIDATES FOR THE UN HUMAN RIGHTS COUNCIL

REF: A. STATE 60967
[1B. MANAMA 0635](#)
[1C. MANAMA 0633](#)
[1D. STATE 56707](#)
[1E. STATE 55461](#)

Classified by DCM Susan L. Ziadeh for reasons 1.4 (b) and (d).

(C) Pol/Econ Chief April 22 delivered Ref A demarche concerning Asian candidates for the UN Human Rights Council (HRC) to MFA Director for International Organization Affairs Ghassan Shaikho. Shaikho agreed that the new HRC must represent a break from the former UN Commission on Human Rights. Per Ref B, Shaikho said that Bahrain had announced its candidacy for the Council and requested the support of the United States. He said that as a member of the Council, Bahrain could act as a bridge between the West, in particular the U.S., and developing countries and move deliberations in the right direction. The first Council will set many precedents and Bahrain will work to ensure it focuses on international standards and cooperation and funds technical assistance projects to conduct field work. Shaikho said Bahrain would support the United States for a seat on the Council whenever it decides to run.

MONROE